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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

: Nobumasa SUZUKI et al. **Applicants**

Group Art Unit: 3732

Appln. No. : 10/659,303

Examiner: Cary O'CONNER

Filed

: September 11, 2003

Confirmation No.:3578

For

: VERTEBRA BODY PLATE FOR VERTEBRAL COLUMN FIXING

SYSTEM

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.112

Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated November 29, 2007, setting a shortened threemonth statutory period for response to expire on February 29, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection in view of the hereincontained remarks. However, if any extension of time is necessary, this is an express request for any necessary extension of time and authorization to charge any required extension of time fee or any other fees which may be required to preserve the pendency of the present application to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this document.